

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1-2

23rd February, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision

Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission

In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2018

"Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference".

Last Wednesday, the MRC and St. Patrick's PS communities came together to celebrate the start of the Lenten season. Lent provides a time of reflection for all Christians as we approach the most important time in the liturgical year, the Easter Triduum. At our Ash Wednesday celebration, Fr. Neville described the three core requirements of Lent for those seeking a life after Christ: prayer, alms-giving and fasting. This week's prayer reflects on the start of the Lenten season

*Gracious and loving God,
As we begin our Lenten season
may we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
May we see with his eyes those who are rejected and abandoned,
and act with love and acceptance.
May we hear with his ears the cries of those who are in pain and sorrow,
and listen with compassion and understanding.
May we love with his heart those who are different and challenging
and show to them the face of Christ.
Amen.*

Family Holidays

Given the fact that many families in our community are directly or indirectly involved in agriculture, the normal holiday periods don't always present the chance for a family holiday and/or time away. In particular, December/January often are times of high activity. Therefore, a number of Mercy Regional College families take family holidays during school terms. I understand and support the need for family time and applaud those families who put a priority on time away together. However, can I remind all parents that, where possible, the College should receive ample notification of any absences to allow teachers to plan ahead and minimise any significant disruptions to students' learning. This is particularly important for students undertaking Years 10 – 12.

Presentation Ball Preparations

For most Year 11 students and their families, the 2018 Presentation Ball is just over one week away with students participating in dance practices most afternoons through the past three weeks. As has been my practice in recent years, I have mailed home a letter to all parents as well as speaking to all Year 11 students about the College's firm policy and position with respect to after parties. Although the Presentation Ball is a wonderful celebration for families and students, parties that follow later on the weekend run the grave risk ruining reputations and causing injury. I must emphasise in the strongest terms that the College **does not sanction or support** after parties after any College event.

Mobile Phones at school

As most in our community are aware, there were a series of concerns around mobile phones in and out of school in 2017. Following some constructive feedback from parents and staff in recent months, a number of changes have been made to our guidelines for mobile phones being at school. However, our preferred position remains that if possible students don't bring mobile phones to school. These changes are detailed in an article following by our AP – Staff and Students, Mrs. Claire Wrigley.

Camps and Retreats

As I highlighted in the last newsletter, one of the defining qualities of Mercy Regional College is the hospitality and good humour of our students and that these attributes are most clearly seen outside the school environment. Reinforcing this was the excellent reports I have received on the conduct of our Year 7 & 10 students who participated in the Year 7 Camp and Year 10 Work Experience last week. I particularly enjoyed joining 7B and 7D on the gorgeous walk around Cape Bridgewater last Friday.



Involvement of parents at Mercy Regional College

One of the good things about the start of the school year is that there are a number of events where parents have the opportunity to meet new teachers, explore new facilities and engage in conversations about the learning and teaching priorities for the College. In recent weeks, these have included the Commencement Mass and Assembly, Year 7 & Middle School Information Nights and the College Swimming Sports. Mercy Regional College places an enormous value on the influence that parents can have on the education of their children; we fundamentally believe that teachers and families must work in partnership to achieve the best learning outcomes for young people.

Therefore, I have been and remain committed to involving parents in all aspects of College life and the decisions that we take. Three years ago, we undertook a significant relaunch of the College's PTFA with the result being the Mercy Parents' Consultative Group (PCG) – their role was to provide direct advice to the Principal on major issues and developments at the College. The PCG meets towards the end of each term and we would love to see an influx of new members. Membership of the group is not onerous with the meeting themselves the only time commitment needed.

Our first meeting will be held in the McAuley Campus Board Room on **Monday 26th March** from 5.00 – 6.00pm.

Student Achievements

With February almost over, plenty has already happened in extracurricular activities at Mercy:

- Good luck to our swimmers who will be competing in the HSSSD Swimming next Tuesday. The Senior boys cricket team were very successful earlier this week winning both competitions.
- Thanks to the large number of students, staff and families who attended our Middle School Information Night held on Wednesday night.
- Congratulations to all students who are currently participating in the various rounds of Lions Youth of the Year around our district. I am sure that each student who is involved in this challenging competition will grow through the experience.

REMINDER TO PARENT(s) / GUARDIAN(s)

Please advise the school if you have had any changes to the following areas:

- Address
- Phone numbers
- Emergency Contacts
- Child's Medical Information

Yours in Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DR. DARREN EGBERTS'. The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Learning to Care, Caring to Learn



Friday, February 23rd, 2018

Dear Parents,

Bus Arrangements

As most you would be aware Mercy Regional College is reliant on a significant number of bus services to transport our students to and from school each day. The complexity and number of these services means that arrangements for students catching a bus must be clear and well understood. The College is very appreciative of the support our students and families receive from regional bus companies and from those staff responsible for bus services in other local schools.

State Government guidelines guarantee students who satisfy the geographical criteria are able to access bus transport to and from their school. But this guarantee does not extend to students being able to access a seat on any bus that services the College or local area. A number of specific bus runs are at, or close to, capacity.

As has been the case for the past number of years, there are very limited bus passes available on any external or government bus runs. In fact, there are some bus runs south of the Princes Highway that are so tight we have struggled to get new enrolments from their homes to bus interchanges and/or to Mercy. **If parents wish to request a bus pass on any government bus run, this request MUST be done directly to the relevant state school.**

To accommodate all students who wish to come to Mercy Regional College, we run a number of contract bus services. These include:

- Cobden – Noorat, Cobden – Camperdown
- Lismore/Derrinallum – Noorat, Lismore/Derrinallum – Camperdown
- Terang – Camperdown, Terang – Noorat
- Mortlake – Noorat, Noorat – Camperdown

If there is capacity on these Mercy contract bus runs, the College can issue a **limited number** of bus passes on a case-by-case basis. However, it is fair to say that the number of bus passes available is decreasing and therefore the criteria being used to issue them has become more stringent. In fact this year, **NO BUS PASSES** are available on the following buses. Cobden – Camperdown - Cobden or the early Camperdown – Noorat – Camperdown.

If Parents wish to apply for a bus pass on one of the Mercy contract buses they should do so through Reception at either College Campus using the new 'Bus Pass Request' form (available on the college website <http://www.mercy.vic.edu.au/documents/BusPass.pdf> a copy is also attached) and submitted to the office at **least two days in advance**. In general, bus passes will only be issued where family circumstances or student/family welfare dictates. **Bus passes will not be issued to students for social occasions such as parties or sleep-overs**, but may be considered for ongoing after school commitments if space allows. At all times the issuing of a bus pass is at the sole discretion of the College.

In summary:

- If you require a bus pass on any government bus, this request must be made directly to the relevant state school.
- If you require a bus pass on a Mercy contract bus, this request must be made on the 'Bus Pass Request' form two days prior to the travel date.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL

McAuley Campus
Henderson Street, Camperdown
Victoria 3260
Telephone 03 5593 2011
Facsimile 03 5593 3941

Postal Address
P.O. Box 152, Camperdown
Victoria 3260

O'Keefe Campus
McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat
Victoria 3265
Telephone 03 5592 5353
Facsimile 03 5592 5429

Email office@mercy.vic.edu.au
Web www.mercy.vic.edu.au
ABN 48 583 485 534

From the Assistant Principal – Staff & Students

Mrs. Claire Wrigley



We welcome back to school Year 10 students after Work Experience and Year 7 students after camp at Cape Bridgewater. The students have been working productively over the past few weeks and we have seen a strong commitment from students to towards their studies. We have also seen improvement in the uniform and we thank students and parents for their support.

School Photos

School photos will be held at both Campuses on Thursday the 8th March commencing at the McAuley campus before continuing at the O’Keeffe campus. MRC will accommodate family photos once forms have been submitted.

Students are expected to be in correct summer uniform, including their school jumper.

Mobile Phones at school

The use and securing of mobile phones and other electronic devices is the individual student's responsibility. It is not the responsibility of the school to ensure the security of mobile phones brought to school by students. Students bring these items at their own risk. Students are strongly encouraged not to bring their mobile phones to school.

Students who choose to bring mobile phones generally store them in their school bags or they have the option of leaving their phone in the Head of School’s office or at Reception at O’Keeffe Campus or requesting a lock for their locker. Phones are not to be used during school hours.

If students have a phone at school they need to register the phone, this is done by obtaining a form from Reception.

As per the mobile phone policy if the College believes investigation is warranted school staff have the right to look through a phone in the presence of the student. Parents can access the mobile phone policy on PAM homepage under school links.

Should a student be caught using their phone in school hours the following procedure will occur.

Non-compliance with guidelines for student use results in the following procedures:

1. If a student is found to be in possession of a phone (and has not followed the above procedures), then the phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. This can be collected from the office at the end of the day. The student must also present their phone the proceeding day to be stored at reception for the day.
2. If a student commits a second offence, their phone is confiscated until parent contact is made by AP or Principal.
3. If a third offence is committed, parent contact will be made by the Principal or DP and a meeting will be scheduled with parents and student. Student may then serve an internal suspension concluding at 4:30pm.

Note: if students use phones at recess or lunchtime, their phone will be confiscated, and same sanction enforced (as per points 1 and 2).

Year 10 Work Experience

Last week, the majority of Year 10 students undertook work experience. This is a valuable opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work, whilst investigating possible career pathways.

A snapshot of the variety of work the students undertook during the week

Chloe Davis: My work experience was done at JG King Homes in Ballarat. My week was full of fun and learning. I participated in many activities such as admin, design, architecture, drafting and also helping out sign builders. I learnt a lot that will come in handy in the future trying to decide what pathway I will take. My most favourite activity that I was most interested in was the design part of building a house. Also drawing and sitting and learning what architectures do was very interesting. My week was great fun and JG King Homes was such a welcome and knowledge place to do work experience.

Ed Payne: For work experience I worked with Tim and Ross MacDonald and Matt Fidge. I did building and Plumbing. I worked from 8 in the morning to 5 at night, mainly doing labouring, but I also built and helped put a roof on a veranda. My week of work experience gave me a good idea of what the work force is like.

Casey Willis: For my work experience I worked at the Saxon house, AFL Goldfields, in Ballarat. I worked on the records and football fixtures throughout the season of 2018, also took a few trips to footy HQ at Mars Stadium and worked on the Rebels program. I really enjoyed it, although it wasn't what I expected. I learnt that there is a lot of work behind the scene going into a football and netball season.

Zali Searle: For my work experience I went to Nick Hose Fitness. In my week, I joined in classes and helped out with personal training sessions. I learnt a lot about rehabilitation training and physio therapy which I really enjoyed joining in on. The only part of my week that I did not enjoy was waking at 5.30am every morning.

Ben Catley: For Work Experience, I chose to go to the Camperdown Kindergarten. My job was to help supervise the children and help out the kids when they were struggling. Every day I would walk around the playground making sure no one got into any trouble, as well as having to push kids on the swings.

Alysha Kelly: For work experience I went to the Wangoom race track. My week was full of learning and new experiences. I had a great time there, they let me do so much with the horses, all the staff were very welcoming and I loved it!

Archie McBean: I worked for Murray Lucas building where we put up a house frame in Camperdown. It gave me a good glimpse of what the building trade was like and it seems to be pretty fun.

Gemma Harry: For work experience I went to St. John of God hospital in Warrnambool. In my week, I spent my first day in the rehab ward and my second day in the day surgery ward. For the last 3 days I went down to Allied Health in the hospital and helped out rehab patients in the gym & in their hydrotherapy sessions in the pool. I really enjoyed the day surgery unit because it was a lot faster paced and I liked the pool sessions. I learnt a lot about rehab patients and what they have to do, which was pretty interesting.

Amy Vogels: For my work experience I went to Bluewater Fitness Centre in Colac. My work experience coordinator person was Ben Waldron, and I stayed with him during the week. I chose to go to this place because I am interested in the area of fitness once I finish school. I was in the gym, helping with exercise classes and occasionally doing my own workout, the crèche area helping look after the kids and in the pool, teaching swimming lessons and lifeguarding. I also spent a lot of time in customer service. I absolutely loved it, and would go back there, although I do think we need another week, because once I really got the feel for what was going on, it was Friday. One thing that I liked was the early (5.30AM) starts, which is surprising because I'm not a morning person.

Molly Jenkins: For my work experience I went to St Patricks School. It was good because I got to help the kids and see my old teachers.

Angus Hawkes: I had a lot of variety in my work experience. I did plumbing excavation, operated machinery, washed machinery, laid concrete and laid pipe for a trough.



Jada Kenna



Mollie Jenkins



Nick Catley



Angus Tudgey



Noah Brumby



Jess Wade



Krystal and Laura



Shaye Herron



Are you 16 to 23 years old?
Looking for a challenge?

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YOUNG ENDEAVOUR  YOUTH SCHEME
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



413 Squadron Warrnambool

Australian Air Force Cadets recruiting now!!!

If you are aged 13 to 18 years with interests in aviation or the outdoors then the Australian Air Force Cadets could be for you.

The AAFC offer a participation based youth development program auspiced and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force.

As a Cadet you will wear the uniform of the AAFC, participate in a structured educational program with opportunities to learn to fly powered and glider aircraft, parachute, abseil, undertake weapons training, attend camps at RAAF bases throughout the Country, attend bush training Bivouacs and progress through the Cadet Rank Structure.

The aims of the AAFC are to :

- To give cadets a foundation of Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) knowledge and discipline
- To develop character and good citizenship in the widest sense
- To develop qualities of leadership, self-reliance and initiative
- To develop an interest in the RAAF and aviation generally
- To instill a knowledge of aviation history, and
- To encourage cadets to continue an active interest in aviation into their adult life

If you are interested in joining us you, come along to our recruitment / information session and tour at Tel el Eisa Barracks, Pertobe Road, Warrnambool at 6.45pm SHARP on Thursday 1st March 2018.

For more details about 413 Squadron, the AAFC or register your interest, please email admino.413sqn@aafc.org.au

You can also find us on Facebook, look us up at: 413 Squadron AAFC

As a Cadet you will:

- * Be part of a team and gain team building skills
- * Develop leadership and survival skills
- * Make new friends and have fun
- * Experience challenges
- * Learn to take responsibility
- * Take part in physical education activities

As a Cadet you'll learn:

Aviation
Leadership
Self-discipline
Safe weapons handling
Fieldcraft
First aid
Drill and ceremonial
Communications
Navigation skills



**Leadership
Confidence & Mateship**



COMING DATES

TERM 1, 2018

Wednesday 28th February

HSSSD Swimming

Friday 2nd March

Presentation Ball

Thursday 8th March

School Photos

Monday 12th March

Labour Day Holiday

Monday 19th March

Year 10 Immunisation

Tuesday 20th March

MRC Athletics Carnival

MRC Board AGM Meeting

Wed 21st - Fri 23rd March

Year 8 Princetown Camp

Friday 23rd March

GWR Swimming

Saturday 24th March

Cambodia Immersion Trip Departs

Tuesday 27th March

HSSSD Athletics

Thursday 29th March

Holy Thursday

Term 1 Concludes @ 2:15pm

Friday 30th March

Good Friday

Sunday 1st April

Easter Sunday

Thursday 5th April

Cambodia Immersion Trip returns

TERM 2

Monday 16th April

Term 2 Commences

Wednesday 25th April

Anzac Day Holiday

Dinny's Dinner Term1 - 2018 Roster

Starting Time is 10:00am

Wendy 0427 822 361 Nicola 0411 899 939

26/2/2018— 2/3/2018	5/3/2018 –9/3/2018
Monday Cherie Mungean-55985343	Monday Tracy Nolan-0417829106
Tuesday Andrea Coutts-0419567473	Tuesday Nicki Rikkard-0407323438
Wednesday Katie Millard-0438983421	Wednesday Leah Buckle-0418505373
Thursday Sandra Tudgey 0427240071	Thursday Liz Brett-55963556
Friday – Paula Poole-04199889060	Friday – Wendy & Nicola
13/3/2018 – 16/3/2018	19/3/2018—23/3/2018
Monday—Labour Day	Monday - Kerry Cain-0448943367
Tuesday - Angela Cunningham-55932260	Tuesday – MRC Athletics
Wednesday - Liz Place-0427947238	Wednesday Clint Annette-0428791407
Thursday - Angela Russell-0499568573	Thursday – Julie Whytcross-0408948218
Friday – Wendy & Nicola	Friday – Wendy& Nicola
26/3/2018 – 29/3/2018	
Monday -Karen Harrison -0409330070	Monday
Tuesday -Christine Moloney-0427921047	Tuesday -
Wednesday – Carol Ubergang-0427922325	Wednesday
Thursday Sandra Tudgey-0427240071	Thursday
Friday - Good Friday	Friday
Monday	Monday
Tuesday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Thursday
Friday	Friday
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Please note volunteers are now required to have a working with children check go to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

Canteen is looking for more helpers contact Wendy or Nicola on phone no above Thanks

PUBLIC NOTICES



I CAN Young Adults Camp

**Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th
March 2018**

*A camp for 16 - 20
year-olds on the
Autism Spectrum*

- Have fun
- Make new friends on the Spectrum
- Say 'I CAN'

Initially I was hesitant to join the I CAN Network, but on my very first night of camp I realised we aren't all that different from each other. Everyone can be themselves and no one judges anyone!
Lydia, 17, (Mentee 2015, Mentor 2016)

**Participant
receives an I
CAN camp
certificate and
an I CAN
souvenir**

DATE: Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th March 2018

VENUE: Camp Coorimungle
30 Bornong Rd, Coorimungle, Victoria

COST: \$260

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: ican.network/camps

CONTACT: camp@ican.network with any questions

I CAN Camps are run by I CAN Network - Australia's first social enterprise founded by people with Autism.

NOTE: Please contact us if you would like to discuss any support requirements you have.



ican.network/camps

Is your son or daughter interested in soccer?

The **Corangamite Lions** invite you to **come & try** soccer for the next month!



Things you need to know:

- ~ **come & try** training is on Tuesday 27th February, Tuesday 6th March, Tuesday 13th March, Tuesday 20th March and Tuesday 27th March from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.
- ~ Tuesday 27th February at 5:30pm will be the main information session
- ~ we are based at the Scotts Creek Recreation Reserve on the Cobden-Port Campbell Road
- ~ parents must stay at the ground whilst training takes place
- ~ players can wear runners or football boots
- ~ players need basic shin guards after the first training please
- ~ age categories are likely to be MiniRoos from 4-9 years, U 11s, U 13s, U 15s & Seniors
- ~ we will help you with the online registration in mid-late March if you choose to play
- ~ we play Sunday games in either Scotts Creek, Warrnambool or Hamilton
- ~ our teams in 2017 were mixed gender, girls and boys, female and male

Please just turn up! For any other questions...

president@corangamitelions.com.au

www.corangamitelions.com.au

text/call Dean Johnson on 0400 502 478

Cobden Rotary Club

Presents

"Movie under the Stars"

Movie
at
8pm

CARS

Mini Golf &
Refreshments
available
from
6:30pm

Open Air Cinema at Cobden Miniature Railway Park
(on the grass - BYO blankets and chairs)

Saturday 17th March

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION PER PERSON
to support local community projects



THE TALK THAT STOPS THE TOWN

Proudly supported by **Commonwealth Bank**

Thursday, February 22
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Commonwealth Bank, Camperdown
150 Manifold Street

Dinner and drinks will be provided



LETSTALK
BREAKING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

Lets Talk Foundation is a community
driven initiative in response to
the rising death toll by suicide in
Victoria's South West region

RSVP to Karen Jarvis 0478 401 868
karen.jarvis@cba.com.au